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SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that Manjeri is the headquarters of Ernad taluk where the population is comparatively poor and the so-called rich people can afford to have private doctors for treatment and are not generally interested in these matters, will the Government see that the bed-strength of this hospital is increased so as to help the poor peasantry of that vast taluk? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This hospital has got a bed-strength of 45. As soon as circumstances permit, the bed-strength will be increased."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" The Hon. Minister has been pleased to tell us on a previous occasion that the improvement of taluk hospitals will be taken up immediately after the problem of improving district hospital is tackled. May I know whether under the ensuing Second Five-Year Plan the Government are going to implement that assurance? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is a proposal to take over all taluk headquarters hospitals as early as possible."

Retrenchment of workers by Messrs. T.V.S. and Sons, Limited.

* 1392 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation from the General Secretary of the Madurai Motor Labourers' Union on 19th December 1954 regarding the dismissal of five workers by Messrs. T.V.S. and Sons, Limited; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The representation is under the consideration of the Government."

Reconstruction of a channel from Kunthipuzha river.

* 1393 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any memorandum in 1954 from the people of Kumaramputhur village, Walluvanad, Malabar, regarding the construction of a channel from Kunthipuzha river at Karopadam;

(*b*) if so, whether any investigation was ordered and estimates prepared; and

(*c*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

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"(b) Gaugings of the river to assess the supply available have been ordered by the Chief Engineer; the question of preparing estimates will be considered after the results of investigation become available.

"(c) Does not arise in view of answer to clause (b)."

Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—"Since the people of that locality have come forward to contribute a major portion of the funds necessary for constructing this, will the Government expedite the investigation?"

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I have already stated that the Chief Engineer has ordered the investigation. About the supply position, without water nothing can be done even if the entire cost is met by the people."

Death of fishes in the Bhavani river.

* 1394 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the reason for the recently reported death of fishes in the Bhavani River; and

(b) preventive steps taken in the matter?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"(a) The investigations conducted by the Fisheries Department have revealed that the death of fish in Bhavani River was not due to either epidemic or parasites or limnobiological disturbances. Since the colonists and estate labourers of the locality are often poisoning certain pools in the upper reaches of the Bhavani by bark and dynamites it appears that the recent death of fish in large numbers might be due to poisoning of waters by such human agencies.

"(b) The staff of the Fisheries Department has been instructed by the Director of Industries and Commerce to have closer supervision for enforcing strict conservancy measures against such poisoning."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—"பவானி ஆற்றில் இறந்துபோன 9 a.m.
மீன்களால் ஏற்பட்ட நஷ்டம் எவ்வளவு? ஆண்டுதோறும் மீன் இலாகாவில் நஷ்டமேற்பட்டுக்கொண்டு வருவதால், வருங் காலத்தில அவ்விதம் ஏற்படாமல் இருப்பதற்காக அரசாங்கம் தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்வார்களா?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"அந்த நதியிலே இறந்துபோன மீன்களின் விலை மதிப்பிடப்படவில்லை. ஆனால் இம் மாதிரியாக நடைபெறாமல் இருப்பதற்காக என்னென்ன நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டு வருகின்றது என்று இப்போது நான் சொன்னேன்."